

Top of the Hill

Volume 8, Number 2

MBA Junior School

February 2003

Seizing the Day at MBA

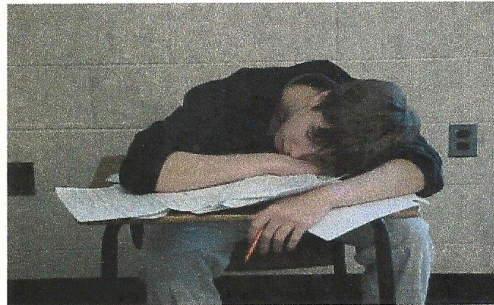
By Everitte Barbee- Entertainment Editor

The day was Friday. I got to school at 7:15 because I was told that we were going to Target to buy toys for our angels (angel tree children from the Salvation Army). It turned out that Target did not open until 8:00, so I had forty-five minutes at my command, which was under the command of General Thurmond and every other teacher in the school. I decided to find my good friend Zach Richardson. We walked around to the various help sessions and classrooms, looking for someone to annoy; we were successful. There was an old tradition between Zach and me to "borrow" as many things as possible from each other without the other's noticing. My record was 633 (I tore up a few index cards which accounted for 598 of the items). The others were mostly pencils, tops, etc. Beau Evers was our victim, and we managed to get two pencils before he turned around and "nicely" asked for them back; by our codes, we forced ourselves to give them back.

It was 8:00--Target time! We walked outside with Mrs. Franks to the buses. She couldn't start the bus, so we drew on the frosted

windshields for a while before Mrs. Franks got the bus running. We arrived at Target and found our items for the

and continued pushing him down the aisle. We got back to school almost at the end of first period.



Everitte is eager and attentive in class.

Next period was history. The topic of discussion was Poland, but somehow we got into a thirty-minute discussion

children. Then, just as any other group of boys would do, we had cart races. I was pushing Markham Shofner, and Will

Earthman was pushing Miller Sherrill. Markham and I were winning when I spotted the wall of lingerie. I gave Markham's cart a little nudge to the left, and off it went, into Shofner Heaven. Markham was having trouble pushing himself out, so Mrs. Franks came to the rescue, pulled him out,

of sexual harassment with ordained ministers. Then Guy McClure chimed in, "So Mr. Russ, back to Poland."

We had the usual ten-minute break next. The break is always the highlight of my day; I walk around outside of Mrs. Pettus's classroom because most of my friends have her for third period. There is always something to do there, whether it is watching Markham climb up the wall by the elevator or making faces in the window at Mr. Nichol's book club. That particular day, Adam Speyer and I were watching Miller Bundy as he attempted an Irish heel click; he was more or less successful.

Then I had English. We always begin English class by drawing "Merry Christmas, Happy St. Snietzelheimer Day" or "Happy Kwanza, Mr. Nichol" on the blackboard. He walked in, and

Continued on the next page



Miller Bundy executes his world-famous heel click.

SEIZING CONT.

as soon as he saw it, he smiled but tried to mask his happiness by erasing the board. Nothing else significant happened in English class.

Then we went to lunch, and for the second half of the period, I tossed a floppy disk back and forth with Patrick Manning in the courtyard and then went to Latin help session.

Next, I had math with the Woolsenator. We began the class by checking homework; I only missed about four or five problems...out of seven. Then we "discovered" a new lesson that was exactly the same as the one before except for one very important change: the second number in the date at the head of my paper was different.

My next class was Jazz Band. Mr. Rundburg somehow became irritated, picked up a giant iron speaker stand, and said, "You know how you get home everyday, and your parents say, 'What happened at school today, Sweetie?'" and you always say 'Oh, nothing?'. Well, they're not going to like to hear that, seeing as they pay so much to send you to MBA, so wouldn't it be cool go home and be able to say, 'Well Mr. Rundburg smashed someone's face in with a speaker stand!' instead of 'Oh, nothing?'"

Next period was Science. Today Mr. Spiegel was sick; thus, Dr. Marro came to substitute. While we were doing our worksheets, Doc was searching for some ethanol. We were all at a loss when we could not find any, so he entertained us by lighting the pressurized air from the key board cleaner.

Next period was 8th period, computer class with Mr. Carter and the other highlight of my day. Today we were working on PowerPoint presentations. Mine was about my good friend Zach--enough said. When it was time to go, Mr. Carter played the Bye-Bye Song, from The Bear in the Big Blue

House. Usually, when I find my good friend Patrick, I "borrow" his lock or his jacket, but today was different. Russell Mack's locker was underneath Patrick's locker, and they were both packing up their backpacks, with their locks on the ground. I gave the locks a little kick, and the next thing I know, Patrick's lock is on Rufus's locker (Rufus is Russell's Latin name), and Rufus's lock was on Patrick's locker. Being the "good boy" that I am, I told them what was up. So Patrick knelt down and removed his lock from Rufus's locker; Rufus thanked Patrick and walked out the door. Patrick stood up to lock up his locker, when he noticed, to his surprise, Rufus hadn't removed his lock. Patrick set out in vain to find Rufus. As Rufus was getting into his car, he shouted back to Patrick, "I'll get it on Monday." Since Rufus was gone, Patrick had no one to get mad at, except me; he gave me the Manning Stare. I apologized to him, of course.

There was still nothing to do, and my mom was always at least thirty minutes late, so I removed his jacket from his hands and ran back into the building, up the stairs, down toward Mr. Russ's room, and down the steps near his room; when I came to the bottom, I threw his jacket into the tiny room under the staircase and ran outside toward Ball Hall. It was there that I became tired and stopped, and when Patrick came panting up beside me, he found that I had no jacket. Since his mom usually came on time, I told him where his jacket was, and he went to get it. Then I went to the front porch of Massey and took a nap until my mom came.

The King of the Jungle

By Matthew Kimball

One of the first things anyone who enters my room will notice is the whole atmosphere; the reptile wallpaper, the sculptures of reptiles and amphibians, and the reptiles themselves all stand out. My room actually contains five reptiles at the moment, but at one point in my life, it housed a total of twenty-seven amphibians and seven reptiles. I currently have a bearded dragon, two albino leopard geckos, an adult designer leopard gecko, and a juvenile jungle leopard gecko (the terms before the word "gecko" describes the color pattern on each of the animals). Lately I have been focusing my efforts towards trying to breed my bearded dragon in the coming spring.

Most people I know think reptiles and amphibians are slimy, nasty, dirty, yucky, filthy, and gross. One thing that I have noticed, though, is that these people haven't encountered the animals at all. People like my parents, for instance, gave them a chance, and though they still don't love them, they have learned to accept their presence as being beneficial.

One experience I have had and will never forget occurred when my mom



Matthew Kimball's herpetological bedroom decor

Continued on the next page

FEATURES

and I went to Arizona for two weeks. We met a herpetologist (studies reptiles and amphibians) who introduced my mom to snakes by letting her handle a corn snake (red rat snake), a gentle kind commonly owned as pets and introduced to the pet market for farmers seeking mice control. My mom happened to really enjoy snakes and decided to *finally* let me try out owning a snake. The first snake I decided to buy was a California Kingsnake, which is a fairly common snake found in the western United States and Mexico. This snake ended up getting loose in our house, and although this experience turned out to be a failure, my mom let me try another one. The next one I got turned out to be a snow phase corn snake (color morph) that had a serious problem with digestion and wouldn't eat. This snake, obviously, turned out to be another failure, and since then, I haven't gotten another snake, but I am currently in the process of trying to convince my mom into it and breeding them.

You may think this is an odd hobby; in fact, most people I know think I'm really weird because of my pets, but I see them as a chance to understand better the world I live in. Maybe this article has meant nothing to you, but then again, if you own a reptile, you know what I'm talking about. Maybe you have a reptile that rides on your shoulder through your house (probably not). Maybe you don't, and now want to try a reptile; that's what I was aiming for.

The Fans: UT vs. VU

By Stockton Beveridge- Sports Editor

Average Vandy Fan

Wearing:

- Coat and tie
- “Sensible” shoes
- A fake mustache (a portable disguise for post game defectors)

Carry:

- Blenders
- a n d
- strawberry daiquiri mix
- Wall Street Journal
- T h e same pennant bought 8 years ago (never been waved)
- Beeper set to go off in the 3rd quarter (“Sorry, I gotta go”)



UT fans are psycho.

- Vandy Football game program

Other:

- Severe case of tennis elbow
- Fake glasses hanging from jacket pocket (We must look sensible at the game.)
- Ideal Tailgate: Beaujolais (wine) and brie (cheese) in the BMW

Average Tennessee Fan

Wearing:

- Matching Tennessee jerseys for the entire family
- The official Volunteer “Rocky Top” clogging shoes
- Bright orange and white UT visor (doubles as a spray shield from yelling fan in the seat behind)
- Official “Vols fan” Rolex over an orange wristband

Carry:

- Homemade shakers
- Official “Vols fan” tip sheet
- Vols flag (doubles as a shield from the orange glare)



Oh gee! It's Gordon Gee!!

- A suspicious-looking drink. Diet Coke??? I think not.
- UT Football game program
- Other:**
- Severe case of pompom elbow
- Hunting license
- Ideal Tailgate: bucket o' chicken and brewskis in the pickup

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FEATURES

Buffin' Up

By Stockton Beverage- Sports Editor

This summer, Charlie Plageman and I came down to the weight room almost every day. At first I was a little intimidated because it sounded like a lot of hard work, which it most definitely was and still is. However, I found that there is absolutely nothing to be scared about and that I surprisingly found it to be fun. I came to know Coach Vernacchio and Coach Redmond on a more personal level; they helped me get started on the "eighth grade workout," and I was able to finish it in about an hour to an hour and a half every day. I decided to write this article so that more people will want to come into the weight room, especially the small, young, inferior, worthless (need I go on) seventh graders.

How often do you think that Junior Schoolers should come into the weight room to work out?

As often as possible! (4 or 5 times a week)

Why is it important for us to go down there?



Coach V. shows Mike Byrge the proper squat technique.

It is a great way to keep in shape, and it will help you perform better at many of your sports.

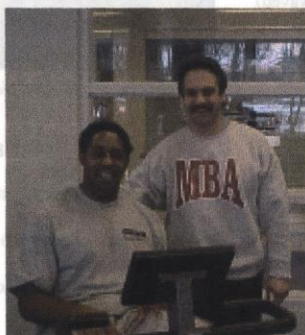
What should we do if we want to work

out but don't know how?

Ask either Coach Redmond or Coach Vernacchio. They would both be happy to help you learn how to use the machines and would love to see you come down.

When is the best time to start?

The sooner the better, because the workout room is always available. Also, don't forget about the summer. The weight room is open for the majority of the vacation, so you can



Coaches Jamie Redmond (left) and John Vernacchio (right): Your weight room friends

**"... don't be ...
. afraid of the
'big, bad'
seniors."**

start then.

When we come down, what should we work on?

Always ask first, but don't work on just one particular muscle group (such as building up your calves so you can jump higher). It is extremely important to balance out your weight lifting time.

Any other comments?

Yes, don't be intimidated of coming down because you're afraid of the "big, bad" seniors. Such fear causes many boys not to come down, but none of the seniors will bother you; they might even help you to understand how one of the machines works. The coaches hope to see everyone down there soon!



Stephen Dolan jogs to stay fit!

CLINIC CLICKS



Kyle Davis manipulates the statistics and scores of the game to ensure a victory over BA.



We had to buy a new camera with all that pizza money because this picture of Stephen broke the old one.



JaBull and his Java.



Mark knows where you live.



Drew looks like a fuzzy bunny.



Michael, our new Messiah.

FEATURES

Tales of Guam: My Weird Brothers

Adapted by Cullen Brown

Some families travel to exotic locations and collect saltshakers. Other families, like Ms. Gulvas's family, collect children. Ms. Gulvas has five adopted brothers -- two from Brazil, one from Toga, Africa, and two that are Native American.

Ms. Gulvas tells this story about one of her adopted, American brothers, "One brother, known in the family as 'Crazy John,' started out as our neighbor. John's family had lots of problems, so he always used to stay with my family. One time when John was staying with us, his family moved away and did not tell him that they were moving or where they were going! Fortunately, my family loved John so much that they adopted him. Although John never heard from his biological parents again, he grew up happily and with lots of love. Today John is an airline pilot, and flying is his passion. John's children think that my parents are his only grandparents." Ms. Gulvas pauses and then finishes: "No matter what life throws you, you can still be happy with lots of love."

Gwyneth

*Interview by Everitte Barbee-
Entertainment Editor*

Everyone knows Miller Bundy, a jovial young 8th grader here at MBA; however, not everyone knows his imaginary friend, Gwyneth. I thought I would introduce you to him with a small interview.

Statistical Information:

Name: Gwyneth
Species: North Asian Elf
Gender: Male
Age: 3012 years old
Favorite Food: Pork Rinds
Family: His mother is Prancer the reindeer, and no one knows whether Santa, Blitz, or a random elf is his father.



Ms. Gulvas has trouble counting all of her brothers.

The Interview:

Everitte: Where do you live?
Gwyneth: In a box in Miller's closet about the size of five cinderblocks.
E: How often do you leave your box?
G: Only once a day to chase squirrels.
E: Do you have any friends?
G: There are two elves that live next door to Miller that come to eat dinner with me

every once in a while.

E: How did you come about living with Miller?

G: Well you see, Santa put me in a box for insubordination. However, Santa accidentally placed the box in his toy bag. That night Miller wanted to see Santa, so he hid out under a tree; however, Santa saw him, he dropped his bag, and I rolled out. From that day forward, because Miller had saved me from Santa, I was forever Miller's slave...friend.

E: What was your past life like?

G: I used to work in the CIA.

E: What did you do in the CIA?

G: I worked in Area 51 for a while, where I ate the aliens and test drove their ships. I was also in Nam.

E: What did you do in Vietnam?

G: You don't know, man. You weren't there.

E: What influence does Gwyneth have on you?

Miller: He is like a great grandfather. He teaches me very important life skills, like how to open a snickers with my hands behind my back, and how to stick a spoon on my nose.

E: How many elves does it take to screw in a light bulb?

G: It takes 364.25 elves.

E: How did you meet Santa?

G: Well, he got kidnapped by Osama bin Laden, and the CIA sent me in to save him. From that day on, I helped him build toys for all the little boys and girls.

E: Can Gwyn do anything helpful?

M: Yes. He eats my homework and mows the lawn (eats the grass). He also sets things on fire and makes them fly around like Carrie.

At that moment, Gwyn received a call on his cell phone and had to hop into his pick-up truck and drive to Korea to help disarm some nukes for the CIA.

SPORTS

A-Team Soccer

By Scott Schwartz and Stockton
Beveridge- Sports Editor

The Microbe "A-Team" soccer had a gallant yet disappointing season. The team was very strong and dominated play in almost every game because of their many experienced players. Unfortunately, the team's record did not reflect the true talent of those players. Practically every game was characterized by dominant field play and a leading score, only to have the outcome undermined by a fluke play or unusual circumstance. One such example is Matt Crook's brilliant goal against his own team in the HVAC tournament against BGA. The team could have easily been undefeated but finished with a discouraging record of 4-2-2. Zach Richardson, becoming their All-Tournament Player, clearly illustrated the team's style of play: unselfish and sure-footed. The team also had a strong showing from their two seventh graders, with one, Alex Darsinos, even becoming a leading scorer. The microbe team hopes to improve its record next year. Here is a list of nicknames from this great team:

- Travis "Better luck next year" Brannon
- Beau "B-Team is a lot better" Evers
- Alex "Quit picking on me" Darsinos
- Denis "Crossed the border last night" Bermudez
- Tate "I'd score on a field goal" McNeilly
- Matt "Speed over skill" Crook
- Nick "See above" Berklacich
- Trey "All around" McMinn
- Markham "I played more last year" Shofner
- Drew "Let's get physical" Andrews
- Zach "An assist is better than a goal" Richardson
- Grant "Everyone eats my food" Gardner
- Tyler "Wannabe Markham" Yarbrough
- Weston "Sh*!" Cowden
- Morgan "I'm not that slow" Gregory
- Tipper "I'm too boring to have a nickname" Austin



*Congratulations HVAC
runners-up!*

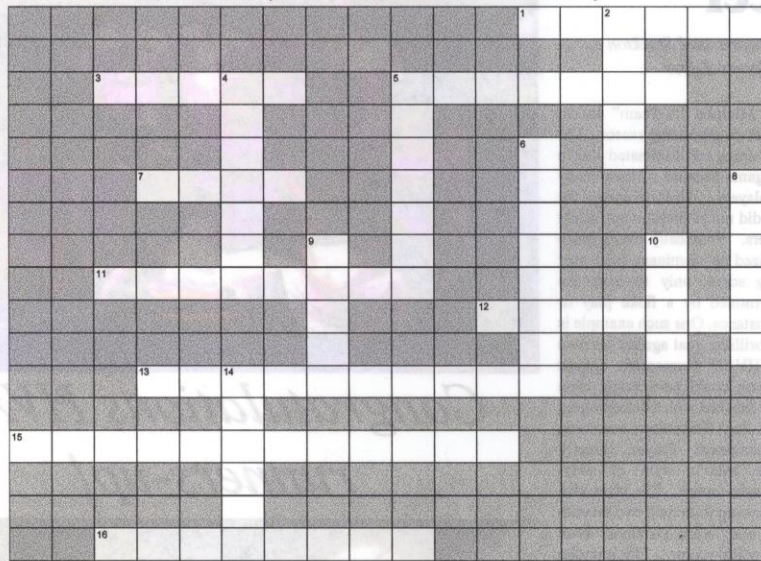


Medal winners (L to R): Christian Waddey, John Michael Simpson, William Herbert, Mike Herron, and Ben Daniel

CROSSWORD

Sports: Across and Down

Created by Chase Altenbern- Editor-In-Chief



Created with EclipseCrossword — <http://www.eclipsecrossword.com>

ACROSS

1. The Canadians are invading our country.
3. These buff, British, brutes take bountiful blasts.
5. Chirp! Chirp! Music of the night
7. Sorry, we don't accept lefties.
11. The ball used in this sport is made of plastic.
12. Fastest game on Earth, players throw the pelota ball.
13. Winner gets the net.
15. Running over the river and through the woods to the HVAC we go.
16. The Native Americans were exceptional at this sport.

DOWN

2. Use the en passant.
4. XXXXXXXXXXXX = A Perfect Game.
5. Players scrubbing ice.
6. Foot+ball
8. Concerns LOVE and Venus
9. The first ball you throw is the pallino.
10. The ball has dimples.
14. AKA Futbol

***Stumped? Ask an editor
for clues.***

JAMBALAYA

A Happy Halloween Mixer

By Worth Baker

All right. Being a seventh grader, I know personally how frightening it is to be in a gym with ninety girls and ninety boys (especially at a Halloween mixer). Wait, no, it's actually not scary, but hey, we're in seventh grade; give us a break!

Some of the highlights were Carlton's dancing (of course), the limbo, and seeing a wonderful phenomenon: girls and boys dancing together with more than an hour left! The musical chairs game was an interesting idea, and one scary part of the dance (besides Sloan's "fashion designer" costume) was the constant threat of being pelted by free glow sticks--it was a once-in-a-lifetime chance for a seventh grade MBA boy to protect a girl from light-up bendy things.

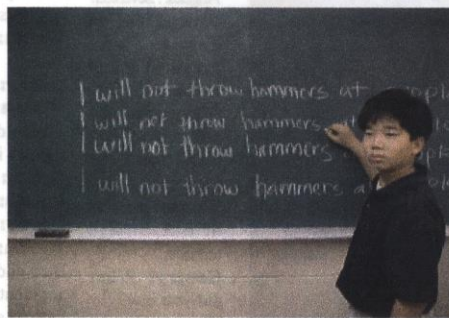
Then there was the food. I'd say the candy corn and pretzels were pretty good. But c'mon, it's Halloween, and we don't want pretzels and candy corn; we want French Fried Human Veins and Sugar Coated Appendices in those fun bowls that grab you when you take candy! (Is it just me, or is this starting to sound too much like an article from "Southern Living"--not that I've ever read one, uhhh....)

Anyway, overall the dance was a success, and a big thanks to the 7th grade mothers for putting it together. Happy Trails!

Guilty Guys

Compiled by Stockton Beveridge

Charlie B.- My brother and I were jumping off the balcony in our old house to couches on the ground. I told my brother to go first. He jumped and sprained his arm. While he was injured, I became his servant. I had to get him what he needed and had to play games with him.



Cynn's sin: hurling hammers at humans' heads.

Beau E.- Once I jumped off the monkey bars and landed on a kid's foot, spraining his ankle. I also sprained my ankle, so we weren't really mad. Everything worked out fine.

Phil C.- Once I accidentally threw a hammer at someone and it hit him on the forehead. I tried to try and get him to an adult.

Markham S.- One time during summer track I got extremely mad at my sister. I pulled down her pants in front of a boy, and she started to cry. I hugged her and

told her I was sorry, but my mom still got really angry.

Markham (again) - One time my sister was doing the trust fall and I was one of the ones to catch her. I turned to the other man to tell him to watch and then turned around only to find my sister on the ground. Again, I was very sorry.

Garrett R.- One time I shot a basketball and missed horribly. The ball hit an old man walking across the court. I went to him and said I was sorry.

Chet G.- Once when I was playing soccer I ran into a smaller boy and he fell hard. He had to go to the hospital because of a broken collarbone. I called him that night and apologized.

Tyler Y.- Once I threw a really hard pass to Michael Anderson in basketball. He missed and it hit him in the face, breaking his glasses. The lens then popped out and fell into a crack between the boards. I walked him down to the office to help him get new glasses.

Patrick Q.- Once in a basketball game last year, I pushed someone to the ground because he had set an illegal pick on me. I thought there was not a referee around, but I turned around, and there was. They, unfortunately, got the ball.

Charlie P.- My sister and I fought over what we wanted to watch on TV. I kicked her and went to bed.

Gentry S.- On a regular basis I have inflicted pain on my brother. On one special occasion though, I hurt him very badly. He was jumping off a wooden chair and he hit his head. My fault, I was punished.

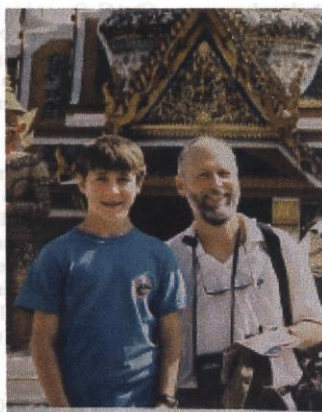
FEATURES

A Trip to Thailand

Interview by Gentry Smith- Features Editor

MBA's own International Man of Mystery: Weston Iler

Weston Iler, an eighth grader here at MBA, has been around the block a couple times and then some. Weston has been traveling all over the world with his parents since fourth grade. He has been to Peru, Greece, and many other places. During his most recent trip this holiday season, Weston traveled to Thailand with his parents, Suzanne and Steve Iler. Here is the inside scoop on their



Weston and Steve in Thailand.

expedition:

Gentry: Where did you go?

Weston: Thailand.

Gentry: Why?

Weston: Because Steve wanted to. (Steve is Weston's dad)

Gentry: When?

Weston: Over winter break.

Gentry: What airline?

Weston: China Airline

Gentry: How long did it take you to fly there?

Weston: Shoot, it was a long time. Wait (thinking)...four hours from Nashville to Los Angeles...seventeen hours LA to Taiwan...and three from Taiwan to Bangkok.

Gentry: Did they serve you egg rolls on the flights?

Weston: No, lots of rice; it was terrible.

Gentry: What did you buy?

Weston: Knock-off Rolex's,

bootleg DVD's, some neckties, and a fat Buddha statue.

Gentry: Where did you stay in Bangkok?

Weston: In a hotel...Chom's Boutique Inn.

Gentry: Did you see or touch any monkeys?

Weston: No, they don't have monkeys.

Gentry: Did you see any of those round-brimmed, pointy-topped hats?

Weston: Yes, I call them "rice farmer lamp shade hats."

Gentry: Did you see or play against any ping-pong champions?

Weston: No... wait, but there was this one dude that wrestled alligators.

Gentry: Did you sleep on any rice mattresses?

Weston: No, but I did sleep on the floor once.

Gentry: Did you get bit by any snakes?

Weston: Um, yes, but it wasn't in Thailand. Oh, but this one guy caught a snake in his mouth.

Gentry: Did you buy anything illegally?

Weston: No comment.

Gentry: Was the trip fun?

Weston: That wasn't a good question. But, dude, the coolest part was when we went in the mountains and saw the natives and all their opium fields. It's called the Golden Triangle, where three countries' borders meet. This is where the warlords were fighting against all the opium traders.

Gentry: What was some of the best stuff you did besides the Golden Triangle?

Weston: Cockfighting and Thai Fighting.

Gentry: Was it what you expected?

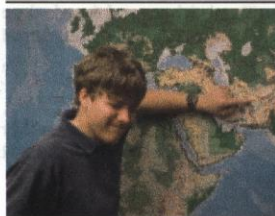
Weston: Yeah.

Gentry: Did you study for exams any?

Weston: Do I have to tell the truth?

Gentry: Since you were gone all of the holiday break, did you get any Christmas presents?

Weston: Sadly...No.



Chase Altenbern, the Geo Bee Champion

MBA Geography Bee Champ

Final Question:

The Highland Games, an annual festival celebrating Scottish heritage, is held in what maritime province?

Novia Scotia

MIXED BAG

MGMBA Casting

By Gentry Smith- Features Editor

Arnold Schwarzenegger in *The Terminator*~ **Nicholas Caroland**
John Belushi in *Animal House*~ **Miller Bundy**

Mr. Brady in the *Brady Bunch*~ **Sam Little**

Macaulay Culkin in *Home Alone*~ **Patrick Quinn**

Inspector Gadget as himself~ **Gena Kaboulov**

Russell Crowe in *Gladiator*~ **Ben Daniel**

Rhett Butler in *Gone with the Wind*~ **Nick Berklacich**

Tom Cruise in *Top Gun*~ **Jackson Bull**
Adam Sandler in the *Water Boy*~ **Miller or Travis**

Jim Carey in *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*~ **Matthew Kimball**

Percy Weasley from *Harry Potter*~ **Kyle Davis**

Macaulay Culkin in *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*~ **Patrick Quinn**

Tom Hanks in *Saving Private Ryan*~ **Clayton Foster**

Chevy Chase in *Vegas Vacation*~ **Beau Evers**

Pierce Brosnan in *Die Another Day*~ **Will Earthman**

Dennis Quaid in *The Rookie*~ **Jeff Eberle**

That other kid who stars in *Home Alone 3*~ **Patrick Quinn**

Jim Varney in *Ernest Goes to Camp*~ **Harlan Dodson**

Bill Murray in *Caddy Shack*~ **Tate McNeilly**

Rudy as himself in *Rudy*~ **John Michael Simpson**

Captain Kirk in *Star Trek*~ **William Emfinger**

Why MBA Should Be Co-ed

By Everitte Barbee- Entertainment Editor

The only image that stops any young man from coming to MBA is the picture of a life without girls. Here are the top reasons for why MBA should be co-ed:

1. The teachers would be so caught up in skirt lengths that they would never notice if the guys' shirts were untucked.
2. The lunch room wouldn't have to make as much food, since most girls don't eat anyway.
3. Our female staff would have someone to relate to.
4. We would be so busy fighting over girls that the lunch line would be immaculate.
5. Kyle would have someone to help him correct all the teachers.
6. The general morale throughout the school would improve.
7. We are being sexist not to include girls.
8. Our grades might improve because we call a girl every night anyway, and now she could help us with our homework.
9. The school could no longer be called "Mama's Boy Academy" because there are girls here, too. What about them?
10. It's common sense.
11. Our beautiful cheerleaders wouldn't have to come from other

schools.

12. The change to college wouldn't be so huge that we all become partiers and potheads because we are so overwhelmed by our social lives.

American Math Competition Winners

Top Score at MBA (score of 23)

Chad Augusty

Second Place (score of 22)

Kyle Davis Matthew Kimball

Others (scoring 19-21)

James Michael Will Orman

Miller Sherrill Tipper Austin

Austin Branstetter David Carlson

Will Hannon Daniel Arteaga

Adam Baker Chet Gormley

Zach Juskiewicz Tyler Ramsden

Nathan Sears Andrew Snow



Andrew Snow supports the AMC.....literally.

POETRY...?

The Microbe

Compiled from poems submitted by Mrs. Steele's classes

The Microbe is at the beginning stage;
He is only turning his very first page.
Some Microbes act like they're in a zoo,
But that's ok; that's not all they do.
The teachers must have some powers,
How else could they slow down the hours?
The Microbe's the butt of many a joke,
But he will never feel bad among his own folk.
He is at the bottom of the food chain,
And is the target of the seniors' campaign.
The microbe is looked down upon by Seniors
Even though they're just a bunch of wieners.
When Monday morning rolls around,
None of them is sleeping sound.
The Microbe tries his hardest on every test;
He strives to do the very best.
He knows one man will find him:
Mr. Thurmond--he will grind 'em.
Respect and honor are important in this place,
If not practiced right, he gets a slap in the face.
One day the Microbe will be the boss,
But first there are so many bridges to cross.
The Microbe knows what he must do to survive;
He must enjoy himself and laugh to stay alive.
Well, the Microbe is now very tall,
He took the shame and endured it all.

The crowd opens for him; he doesn't crawl,
For he knows he's now the best of all.

A Microbe Poem

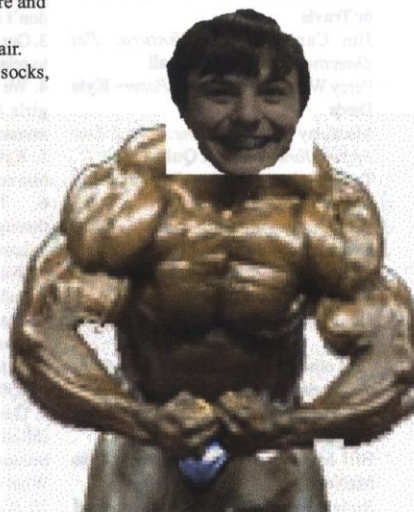
A collaboration from Mrs. Bourland's English classes

Microbes are called small and dumb,
I guess it's now a rule of thumb.
As seventh graders we all feel dumb,
When butts of jokes we have become..
We as microbes feel very small,
Especially when seniors walk down the hall.
They glare at us with evil eyes,
And during lunch, they steal our fries.
Teachers give out demerits here and there,
Even for having eye-long hair.
One teacher likes to check our socks,
And make sure we've locked our locks.
We buy some food from Mr. Cooper,
He sure isn't a party pooper.
Our classes here are harder, so
Those perfect grades were quick to go.
The school was painted by Father Ryan,
At the football game they were fryin'.
We play hacky sack in the courtyard,
And dread getting our report card.
We walk into Massey sleep deprived,
We're finishing our homework as we arrive.

Swimming

By Miller Bundy

Some people may think swimming is a joke;
They laugh and do stuff like provoke.
I might not be the very fastest,
But I can swim like greased molasses.
I'm quite a buoyant swimmer boy,
And when I win, I say, "Oil! Oil! Oil!"
When I go underwater,
And I'm not able to come up because I sink,
I think I hear real loud sounds,
Of angels singing all around.
Mr. Carter is a cool coach,
He doesn't at all resemble a roach.
Emfinger and I are always in the slow lane,
Even so, it is a big pain.



Bundy Body

MIXED BAG

New Year's Resolutions

Compiled by Stockton Beveridge-Sports Editor

Beau Evers - start a new year
Treanor Granbery - stop drinking soft drinks
David Carlson - have fun
Jeff Eberle - stop watching Sports Center
Andrew Eskind - not get mad so easily
Theron Spiegl - get fat, lazy, inactive, and play more video games
Jordan Jenkins - get on PL and stay there
Alec McGuffey - do all of the above
Denis Bermudez - stop being obsessed with hacky sacking
Miller Sherrill - understand Mr. Russ's class
Markham Shofner - be an intramurals champion
Garrett Ramsey - beat Markham at everything he does, except growing
Zach Richardson - pay attention in Mr. Woolsey's class
Matt McCord - burn all of the hacky sacks in the world
Miller Bundy - buy Gwyneth a new box
Chet Gormley - be good
Jack Long-Innes - have a Chihuahua named Chawawa and take off my costume
Patrick Quinn - drop the New Year's Eve glass ball and break it
Will Earthman - stop falling asleep during geography class
Jonathan Ustry - stop falling asleep during assembly
Will Bryant - learn how to fall asleep with my eyes open
Matthew Kimball - see if I really can

eat a cow & reduce my average cake consumption to under 4 slices daily
Patrick Mehta - try to finish my homework for the whole day
Ben Daniel -
Kevin Thomas - try to stop laughing so much during Mr. Cooper's Class
William Herbert - stop laughing every time I drink at lunch
Martin Thompson - have a perfect attendance record in the second semester
Weston Iler - get gooder grades
Bill Eakin - learn how to spell

Battle of the Bake Sales

By Scott Schwartz, Jamie Berk, and Kyle Davis- Copy Editor

With the holiday season approaching, many homerooms decided to donate to charity in the form of bake sales. With all the homerooms doing this, it became rather competitive, and the "Battle of the Bake Sales" began. The homerooms of Mrs. Christeson, Mrs. Pettus, Mrs. Franks, Mrs. Bourland, Mrs. Steele, Mr. Popovich, and Dr. Marro all held bake sales for their respective causes, such as angel trees, a family from Preston Taylor

homes, and Saddle Up (a charity where mentally challenged people can ride horses). Although all of the bake sales were noble and honorable, some clearly outshined others; here's how they ranked:

7. **Dr. Marro**-high prices! No donuts (essential), inconvenient location. This group was unable to answer when asked what charity they were raising money for.

6. **Mrs. Steele**-limited selection but high-quality items, not enough help from students, tight space (cramped).

5. **Mrs. Pettus**-generously cheap, ran out too fast; lack of product.

4. **Mr. Popovich**-decent, sold during break, had *The Simpsons* going, obsessive cleanliness.

3. **Mrs. Christeson**-they "invented" the bake sale idea, two bake sales (major and donuts), and chocolate-covered pretzels, very flexible with prices.

2. **Mrs. Bourland**-homemade food, drinks, made the most money, had an interesting selection including beef jerky.

1. **Mrs. Franks**-organized well, run at many different times, set the precedent of having drinks, wide variety, good prices, \$231-\$250 total made.



Boys bask in Bourland's bountiful baked goods.

MIXIN' IT UP



**Face It! The North
Face fleece is a fad!
(If you have the \$\$\$\$)**



**Theron, good luck at Harpeth
Middle; we'll miss you.**



FRESH FINDS

The Two Towers: A Review

By Alec McGuffey

The lights dim, and as the familiar theme begins to play, spectators are once again whisked into the magical world of Middle Earth. *The Two Towers*, the second installment in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, opened December 18th to critical acclaim and record-breaking profits. The movie begins right where *The Fellowship of the Ring* left off, and it quickly breaks into three separate stories. The first tells of Sam and Frodo, two hobbits being led to Mordor by the deceitful creature known as Gollum. Next, their other hobbit friends, Merry and Pippin, escape from their captors and meet the Ent called Treebeard (Ents are human-like trees).

Finally, Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli are attempting to save the race of men from the wizard Saruman's vast army of wild men and Uruk-Hai.

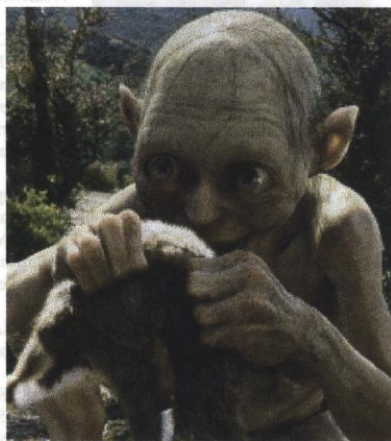
The acting is brilliant, the special effects flawless, and although several additional scenes, not mentioned in the book, are added to the film, anyone with good taste and three spare hours should find this movie to be one of the best Hollywood has thrown at us in a long, long time. I give *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* a 10 out of 10.

Gulvinations

A Typical Day in Earth Science

By Gentry Smith- Features Editor

A typical day in the second-period earth science class with Ms.



"Nice hobbitises, Smeagol brings meat that is fresh and tender!"

Gulvas can be interesting in ways not relating to earth science. We have heard many stories about trips to Guam and some catchy phrases. Here are some of the phrases you might pick up if you were to sit in on this class.

-Ms Gulvas: Now Martin, since you're in the mood to be a clown, there is a great clown school down in Florida. (How she is familiar with clown school, no one knows.)

-Ms. Gulvas: Denis, did you understand this lesson?

-Denis: Yes, simrrrr...excuse me, I meant ma'am. I'm sorry.

-Ms. Gulvas: Oh, busty little fellow, aren't I, then?

-Ms. Gulvas (referring to a mineral): Now boys, check out this BAD RASCAL!!

-Ms. Gulvas: This isn't KINDERCARE....I am here to teach, not to baby-sit you.

-Ms. Gulvas: SERIOUS UP, right now!

-Ms. Gulvas: Now, in Guam I have...

-Ms. Gulvas: Class, you were the only class that had review; sadly, your test average was the worst.

-Ms. Gulvas: Gentry, quit whining.....

-Gentry (speaking calmly): Ms. Gulvas, I wasn't even talking.

-Someone in our class: Have you ever been to Hiatooi??

-Ms. Gulvas: No, but I have flown over it.

*****Note: Hiatooi isn't a real place.**

Fun With Words

By Theron Spiegel-Photographer

rubby-dubby: minced fish such as pilchards, mackerel, etc. placed in a net bag and used as a lure for shark and other large fish

rub-a-dub: a pub, a hotel

sarazin: a variation of sarrazin (contest) Buckwheat

woop woop: a country bumpkin

wrastle-wrestle: contend, strive

zoospore: any one of the minute, freely moving, flagellate or ameoboid organisms released by the sporocyst of various protozoans

GRAB A BOWL

Bowl Game Recap

By Jonathan Usry

New Orleans Bowl

Prediction: North Texas-51, Cincinnati-34

Result: North Texas-24, Cincinnati-19
Comment: North Texas is no stranger to minor bowls. They had the experience, and since I like them more, I had to go with them.

GMAC Bowl

Prediction: Marshall-37, Louisville-34
Result: Marshall-38, Louisville-15

Comment: Whodathunkit? Marshall going in and soundly beating Louisville. Marshall and Louisville were both Top 25 or borderline last year, and this year they were about even. I would have never thought a substantial thrashing would take place.

Mazda Tangerine Bowl

Prediction: Texas Tech-21, Clemson-13
Result: Texas Tech-55, Clemson-15

Comment: Who comes up with the sponsors for these games? If there is any link from tangerines to Mazdas, it got lost in the hype and commercial greed of college football. Anyway, I gave Clemson a handicap in the prediction because of their performance last year; TT had a more solid team.

Las Vegas Bowl

Prediction: New Mexico-42, UCLA-35
Result: UCLA-27, New Mexico-13

Comment: My first one wrong, no comment.

Conagra Foods Hawaii Bowl

Prediction: Tulane-36, Hawaii-14
Result: Tulane-36, Hawaii-28

Comment: I gave Hawaii a slight edge since it *was* a home game. Even then, I never dreamed Hawaii could get the

usually get up for the big games and take it easy on the little games, hence the one point advantage.



loss down to 8 points.

Motor City Bowl

Prediction: Boston College-36, Toledo-35



Result: Boston College-51, Toledo-25
Comment: Boston College is a strong team, despite their record. They

Insight Bowl

Prediction: Oregon State-45, Pittsburgh-35

Result: Pittsburgh-38, Oregon State-13
Comment: Oregon State was on a roll, but Pittsburgh, after beating VA Tech, was feeling pretty good about themselves.

Houston Bowl

Prediction: Southern Miss-17, Oklahoma State-10

Result: Oklahoma State-33, Southern Miss-23

Comment: The only team Oklahoma State seems to be able to beat is the in-state rival Oklahoma. They sure proved me wrong.

Mainstay Independence Bowl

Prediction: Mississippi-66, Nebraska-3

Result: Mississippi-27, Nebraska-23
Comment: SEC holding up against the most overrated team in the nation.

Pacific Life Holiday Bowl

Prediction: Kansas State-14, Arizona State-13

Result: Kansas State-34, Arizona State-27

Comment: Kansas State is traditionally better, but Zona State is a young team on the rise.

Continental Tire Bowl

Prediction: West Virginia-32, Virginia-28

Result: Virginia-48, West Virginia-22
Comment: West Virginia was on a roll; Virginia was the only team that could have stopped it.

Alamo Bowl Presented by Mastercard

Prediction: Colorado-27, Wisconsin-24
Result: Wisconsin-31, Colorado-28

Comment: No comment.

Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl

BOWLED OVER

Prediction: Minnesota-35, Arkansas-14
Result: Minnesota-29, Arkansas-14
Comment: I personally think Arkansas State should have been in instead of AU (sorry, Harlan).

Seattle Bowl

Prediction: Oregon-35, Wake Forest-28
Result: Wake Forest-38, Oregon-17
Comment: My favorite team took a hard loss this year; we really needed Joey Harrington. Oh well, Oregon is doing well in basketball, at least.

Crucial.com Humanitarian Bowl

Prediction: Boise State-23, Iowa State-17
Result: Boise State-34, Iowa State-16
Comment: Brock Forest.

Wells Fargo Sun Bowl

Prediction: Washington-7, Purdue-3
Result: Purdue-34, Washington-24
Comment: No Comment.

AXA Liberty Bowl

Prediction: TCU-10, Colorado State-7
Result: TCU-17, Colorado State-3
Comment: State's slippin'.

Silicon Valley Football Classic

Prediction: Georgia Tech-27, Fresno State-14
Result: Fresno State-30, Georgia Tech-11
Comment: Fresno State is so yesteryear.

Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl

Prediction: Maryland-42, Tennessee-7
Result: Maryland-30, Tennessee-3
Comment: Tennessee should not have made this bowl.

Diamond Walnut San Francisco Bowl

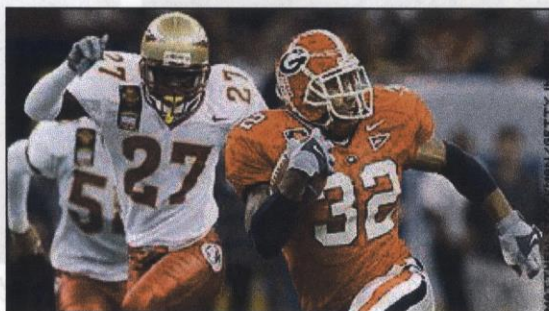
Prediction: Air Force-13, Virginia Tech-10
Result: Virginia Tech-20, Air Force-13
Comment: Notre Dame ended Air Force's roll, though I still thought they had a chance.

Outback Bowl

Prediction: Michigan-35, Florida-23
Result: Michigan-38, Florida-30
Comment: Florida was no good this year.

Result: Oklahoma-34, Washington State-14

Comment: Oklahoma really stepped it up for this game.



SBC Cotton Bowl

Prediction: Texas-28, LSU-14
Result: Texas-35, LSU-20
Comment: Why is Texas in such a lowly bowl?

Toyota Gator Bowl

Prediction: Notre Dame-38, N.C. State-10
Result: N.C. State-28, Notre Dame-6
Comment: Who would have thought the Wolfpack, with their lowly schedule, could have made it this far or even come near the Irish? Notre Dame was a powerhouse this year, but fell apart when they underestimated this underdog.

Capital One Bowl

Prediction: Penn State-14, Auburn-13
Result: Auburn-13, Penn State-9
Comment: It had to be a low-scoring game. These two teams have played exceptionally this year, and it was bound to be a close one.

Rose Bowl Presented by Playstation 2

Prediction: Oklahoma-28, Washington State-24

Nokia Sugar Bowl

Prediction: Georgia-45, Florida State-14
Result: Georgia-26, Florida State-13
Comment: Florida State should never have been allowed near a BCS bowl. ACC Champion means nothing if you don't have the team to support it. Georgia did not prove much beating the Noles, though--no matter what Patrick or Zach say.

FedEx Orange Bowl

Prediction: Iowa-66, USC-0
Result: USC-38, Iowa-17
Comment: Palmer not only robs Banks of a Heisman trophy but also robs Banks of a win in a huge BCS bowl. No matter what Jeff says, USC will get theirs in the end.

Tostitos Fiesta Bowl

Prediction: Miami-42, Ohio State-27
Result: Ohio State-31, Miami-24
Comment: How does National Champions sound, Ohio State fans? Sounds rigged to me. It certainly was not pass interference; Miami is the official Top of the Hill winner (Note: Not all of the Top of the Hill editors agree).

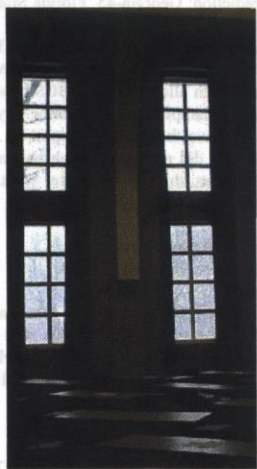
COLD, HARD FUN



After the **Top of the Hill** sold out of pizza, Patrick resorted to eating snow.



The remedy for eighth grade razor burn.



What does the eighth grade see while taking the Math Exam? A Winter Wonderland.

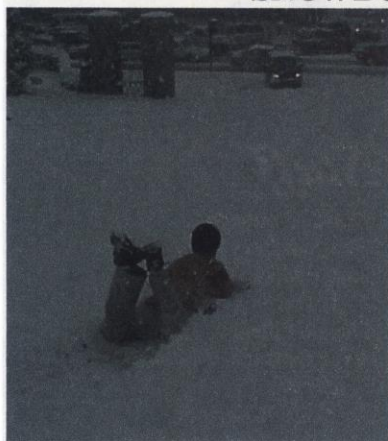


Like **A Christmas Story** all over again

FUN IN THE...SNOW



SNOWBOUND ON THE HILL



Everitte plays chicken with the oncoming car.



Beau Evers and Patrick Manning take a leap.

Photographs by James Anderson and Chase Altenbern



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